

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 4/2/80

On April 1, 1980, Representative James C. Wright, Jr., (D-12th District, Texas) was contacted by Special Agents (SA's) [redacted] and [redacted]

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Wright was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the interview and provided the following information:

Wright informed the Agents that he first learned of the ABSCAM operation from reading the newspapers. Prior to that he had absolutely no contact or knowledge of the ABSCAM operation and was never approached by anyone concerning rewards, monetary or otherwise, available in return for his support of legislation.

Wright stated he is acquainted with Ozzie Myers and Raymond Lederer, due to the fact that it is his job to know all the men in the Democratic Caucus. Wright informed the Agents that he knows neither on a social basis and has never been to Myers' and Lederer's residence.

Wright indicated he does not know and has never heard of Howard Criden, Lou Johanson, or Angelo Errichetti.

Wright stated that shortly after the ABSCAM operation was exposed, Congressmen John Murtha and Jim Howard stopped in to see him. Wright indicated he and Murtha are good friends, and Murtha just wanted to assure Wright that he was not involved in the ABSCAM operation. Wright stated that Howard explained to him that he had been contacted by some man who wanted him (Howard) to meet an individual who Howard understood needed help with immigration problems. Howard indicated to Wright that he told this man (not further identified) that he would not go to this individual's house, but if he had a problem he could stop by his (Howard's) office. Wright indicated he did not believe the individual came to Howard's office. Wright stated Howard was concerned that someone might have gone out to see this individual and innocently be implicated in the ABSCAM investigation.

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Investigation on 4/1/80 at Washington, D.C. File # WFO 87-23321
by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] KWS:pag Date dictated 4/2/80

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Wright informed interviewing Agents that because he is not entirely familiar with the conversation between Howard and the unidentified individual mentioned by Howard, that he would recommend an interview with Howard himself to determine the exact facts as they transpired.